Status of the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An optical system, comprising:

a variable wave plate;

a reticle; and

a first optical device,

wherein an axis of a light beam path passes through, in optical order, ~~the reticle is positioned along an axis of a light beam path between~~ a source of the light beam, the variable wave plate, the reticle, and the first optical device, and

wherein the variable wave plate is positioned along the axis next to the reticle and before the first optical device.

2. (original) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:

said variable wave plate is a Berek's compensator.

3. (original) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:

said variable wave plate is a Soleil-Babinet compensator.

4. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 1, wherein the first optical device comprises:

a first lens group positioned along the axis;

a reflective device positioned to receive light from the first lens group; and

a second lens group positioned to receive light from the reflective device.

5. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the first lens group comprises lenses producing a net positive optical power.

6. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the second lens group comprises lenses producing a net negative optical power.

7. (original) The optical system of claim 4, wherein the reflective device directs light exiting the first lens group towards to second lens group

8. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 1, further comprising:

a beam directing system positioned to receive light from the first optical device; and

a second optical device positioned to receive light from the beam directed system.

9. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 8, wherein the beam directing system comprises:

a beam splitter positioned to receive light from the first optical system and direct light toward the second optical system; and

a reflective device positioned to receive light from the beam splitter and reflect light toward the beam splitter.

10. (original) The optical system of claim 9, wherein:

light exiting the first optical device is directed to the reflective device using the beam splitter; and

light reflected from the reflective device is passed through the beam splitter and is received by the second optical device.

11. (original) The optical system of claim 9, further comprising:

a first quarter-wave plate positioned between the beam splitter and the reflective device; and

a second quarter-wave plate positioned between the beam splitter and the second optical device.

12. (previously presented) The optical system of claim 8, wherein the second optical device has a positive optical power.

13. (previously presented) A system, comprising:

a variable wave plate;

a first optical device

a reticle adjacent to the variable wave plate, the reticle and variable wave plate being located in an optical path between a light source and the first optical device;

a beam directing system; and

a second optical device,

wherein the beam directing system comprises,

a beam splitter operatively positioned to receive light from the first optical system and direct light toward the second optical system,

a reflective device operatively positioned to receive light from the beam splitter and reflect light toward the beam splitter,

a first quarter-wave plate operatively positioned between the beam splitter and the reflective device, and

a second quarter-wave plate operatively positioned between the beam splitter and the second optical device.